

May is Armed Forces and Military Appreciation Month

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Week One: National Observances to Recognize This Month

This month, we want to honor military members by recognizing May as Armed Forces and Military Appreciation Month. National Military Appreciation Month is celebrated every May as a way to encourage U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. The month stands to honor both active and retired military members, including the individuals who have died while protecting the nation's freedom. The month is categorized by the following national observances that highlight the various contributions that military members have made during their time in service.

- **Loyalty Day – May 1st:** Loyalty Day kicks off the month as a day for individuals to reaffirm their loyalty to the country and recognize the history of American freedom. On this day, people recognize and celebrate their freedom, while remembering their responsibility to continue the legacy of liberty.
- **Public Service Recognition Week – May 6th-May 12th:** This week is organized annually to honor the men and women who serve the nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees. Since 1985, the week has been dedicated to honoring our public servants.
- **Victory in Europe Day – May 8th:** Otherwise known as V-E Day, this public holiday marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of WWII of Nazi Germany's surrender of its armed forces. Each year, this day is recognized and celebrated as the anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe.
- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 11th:** This day is recognized annually to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. It recognizes the significant role military families have in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe. It also recognizes the immense sacrifices military spouses must make, and honors their nobility.
- **Armed Forces Day – May 19th:** This day is celebrated annual on the third Saturday of May. It is a public holiday for citizens to come together and honor the military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. It recognizes all branches of the Military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy.
- **Memorial Day – May 28th:** This Federal Holiday is observed annually on the last Monday in May. It is a day to commemorate the men and women who have died while in military service.

BulletBlocker strives to continually recognize the immense sacrifices that military members make in protecting our country's freedom. Throughout this month, we will honor their service and we hope you will too. All active or retired military members can enjoy 15% off their orders throughout the month.

Week 2: The importance of Recognizing Memorial Day

As mentioned last week, Memorial Day is a Federal Holiday that falls on the last Monday of May each year. Memorial Day is observed this year on May 28th. It's easy to lose sight of the holiday's true meaning while celebrating the start of summer and enjoying a three-day weekend. But the day represents a lot more than just an extra day off from work. Memorial Day is a solemn day of remembrance for the men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. armed forces. It originated in the years following the Civil War, in remembrance of the 500,000 soldiers who died, and became an official Federal Holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe this day by visiting cemeteries of memorials, participating in local parades, or hosting family gatherings. In 2000, a National Moment of Remembrance resolution was passed, encouraging Americans to take a moment on this day to remember those who died for their freedom. This moment occurs at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day annually. Additionally, flags are ordered to remain at half-staff until noon across the country, symbolizing the soldiers lost over the years. In the afternoon, they are raised to full-staff, symbolizing our appreciation of their lives.

Regardless of how you choose to spend this day, and whether or not you know someone personally who lost their life while serving our country, it is still important to honor and respect the individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom and safety. Their devotion to our country and willingness to sacrifice their lives is inspirational and honorable.

At BulletBlocker, we sell a variety of [tactical gear](#) and body armor ideal for any law enforcement, federal, military, or public safety professional seeking extra protection on the job. The [Gabriel](#) Ballistic Base Layer Compression Vest is our featured product this week. One of our most popular and classic items, it provides the same anti-ballistic protective coverage area as traditional law enforcement body armor vests. It meets threat level NIJ IIIA, which is the highest level of protection available in soft body armor. Its covert design makes it an ultra-concealable and lightweight option, ideal for military, police, and civilians alike. Its customizable fit and features ensure comfort and ease of mobility for all wearers.

Week 4: How to Participate

As we near the end of Military Appreciation Month, we want to discuss the ways in which you can show your appreciation to the individuals who have served our country through the military. This month is a dedicated time for civilians and service-members alike to express their respect and appreciation for both active and retired military members. Even if you do not know of someone personally who serves or has served our country, participating throughout the month is significant.

One of the most effective ways to show your support is to buy and wear some [NMAM Gear](#). This company offers inexpensive clothing items and other accessories in support of National Military Appreciation Month. When you purchase an item, the company sends money to the Armed Forces Children's Education Fund. Wearing the shirt or sweatshirt will additionally help raise awareness about the month, along with the importance of supporting military members. If you are financially able, donating to Military-based organizations and charities is a great way to help. Some organizations you can donate to include the Armed Forces Children's Education Fund, Operation USO Care Package, The Fisher House, and The Wounded Warrior Project, among others. These organizations altogether provide opportunities to promote the well-being of military

members, their families, and veterans. If you are not able to spend a lot of money but still want to help, [Operation Gratitude](#) is a great option. This organization accepts handwritten letters year-round to be sent to deployed troops, veterans, and first responders. This is an easy, free way to directly impact a military member in a positive way, and a way to show your support.

As stated earlier this month, we offer a variety of tactical gear including backpacks, bags, vests, and pistol cases. Our NIJ IIIA [Bulletproof Responder Bag](#) is ideal for first responders and recreational shooters alike who spend time at the range. The removable bulletproof panel is lightweight, only adding about 20 ounces of weight. The bag's design is discrete and versatile, with multiple compartments to securely carry your weapons and accessories. The bulletproof insert allows the bag to act as a safeguard for accidental discharge. With three color options, adjustable straps, and lightweight feel, this bag is the perfect option for civilians and service members alike. Right now, it is on sale for 10% off its original price.

As National Military Appreciation Month comes to an end, here at Bullet Blocker we want to again express our immense gratitude and utmost respect for all active and retired military members, especially those who have lost their lives while fighting for our country. We hope you will join us in upholding this respect and appreciation not only during Military Appreciation Month, but also throughout the year.

Week 3: Highlighting Military Heroes

Throughout Military Appreciation Month, it is important to recognize the various men and women who have risked or sacrificed their lives while serving our country. Honoring specific military heroes who have fought to protect our freedom is a way to commemorate them throughout the month and year. This month, retired Navy Seal Britt K. Slabinski will receive the military's highest honor, according to [Military.com](#). In 2002, he led a risky assault to rescue a stranded teammate in Afghanistan who was ejected from an aircraft crippled by enemy rocket-propelled grenade fire. Slabinski repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he took on al-Qaida forces during the rescue attempt, and waited 14 hours until a rescue team came. Slabinski will receive the Medal Honor this month for boldly leading his team and exhibiting grace while under fire.

Last month, U.S. Marine Corp Lieutenant Philip H. Sauer received a valor medal, 51 years after the day he died in Vietnam. The Silver Star is the military's third highest award for battlefield bravery, but unfortunately the paperwork for Sauer's medal was lost in the war, but was resurrected in recent years. His four siblings recently accepted the posthumous medal on his behalf. Sauer traded his own life to save the lives of his other men in combat by screaming for them to retreat. Sauer's courageous act and evident dedication to his country are honorable, and the award was well-deserved.

Another military hero is Captain Candace Wimbish, part of the U.S. Army in Texas. This year, her quick response saved the life of a motorcyclist. Driving down the highway, Wimbish saw a tow truck plow into a motorcyclist riding in front of her. Immediately, she jumped out of her car and rushed to the scene of the accident. Noticing that the man was in severe condition and losing a lot of blood, she made tourniquets using their belts until paramedics arrived. Emergency Medical Services was able to stabilize the motorcyclist and airlift him to a nearby hospital. Thanks to her bravery and quick action, this motorcyclist's life was saved. Wimbish is a great example of many military member's dedication to protecting our country and its citizens.

We offer a variety of tactical gear ideal for military members, law enforcement officials, and civilians desiring an extra layer of protection. In addition to Bulletproof NIJ IIIA vests, we offer a selection of tactical backpacks, briefcases, and bags ideal for traveling, hunting, and trips to the range. Regardless of the product you choose, you will be pleased with the level of concealability each one offers. Each product is discrete, yet classic in design. Our tactical backpacks are made of high-quality material and large enough for all your storage needs. As stated previously, we are continuing to offer all active or retired military members **15% off** their orders throughout the rest of the month (email info@bulletblocker.com for details).